

Message-ID: <F136Em0Gcr85pLBwg9M00005a6f@hotmail.com>
From: sassydiver@hotmail.com
To: Dale.E.Beter@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Dredging off Horseshoe and Casino Reefs in Florida
Date: Wed, 9 Oct 2002 13:04:47 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
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Content-Type: text/plain;
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Hello Mr. Beter.....

I'm an avid scuba diver and have been diving the reefs of West Palm Beach for over 10 years every single Saturday, bad weather not included. I watched what your group did to the area off Breakers Reef back in 1995.....assuring Palm Beach that there would be no silt problem.....and guess what.....there is still a 'silt' problem. One good storm and the silt is stirred up again. I highly suggest that you send your own dive team down to collect the samples..... there are so many rocks in the area to the west of Horseshoe and Casino Reefs.

One thing that I do believe has caused all this problem is the affluent decided to live 'on the ocean'..... why should OUR tax dollars go to protect what does NOT belong to them..... namely the beaches. Just off shore the reefs are home for hundreds of species of fish, crustaceans, flora and fauna which are flourishing. If you decide to do this project.... think of what you will be killing and reefs help protect the shores and beaches. And in addition, you will hurt the dive industry to a degree because there are some people that love to dive ONLY those 2 reefs. Again..... I reiterate: Silt does not disappear, it takes many years for it move on, when you think the water has cleared up, there comes a small blow and a swell and the silt goes back in solution and continues to stress the hard and soft corals. And suffocate teeny tiny creatures.

It seems to me that there is a solution to it without destroying the BEST diving sites that Florida has. That is to renovate the pumphouse and USE it!!!!!! It worked quiet well for years before it broke down. And would be cheaper in the long run. Also..... try taking sand from Peanut Island to use..... or from further out in the ocean. NOT from something that attracts tourists and avid divers.

Oh..... one other thing..... divers spend on average for one dive trip..... 60 bucks. And if they stay overnight or do two trips that day..... they spend more money in the areas hotels, dining, sightseeing, and shopping. (I'm one of them). And some come to spend a week and dive every reef there is to dive cause they only do it once a year.

Also..... what we take from Mother Nature..... she usually takes back twofold creating worse problems. Until contractors stop building along the Florida shores/beaches, this will continue to be a problem. And the

reefs will be destroyed forever. Why does the most intelligent species on this earth do the most to destroy it?

Psssst, yes, I and many others drive 2 to 4 hours just to dive on Saturdays and/or Sundays.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Jones
265 Melaleuca Dr.
Satellite Beach, Fl. 32937
sassydiver@hotmail.com <mailto:sassydiver@hotmail.com>

Chat with friends online, try MSN Messenger: Click Here
<<http://g.msn.com/1HM1ENUS/c144??PS=47575>>

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